

EDITORIALS

The Sump Perils

The dangers of the city's many drainage basins to the lives of children living near them will be with us for many weeks. Unusually heavy rainfall during the past three months has filled the basins to the overflow point and has saturated the ground to levels unknown in previous years.

Concern for the safety of children who will climb or burrow under nearly any safeguards provided for their own protection has been expressed officially by the city council, and others have asked for measures to protect the children from their own adventuresome spirits.

Although it was erroneously reported by several out-of-town newspapers that the city had ordered guards for the sumps, some action has been ordered by the council. A thorough inspection of all sumps by city employees with the view to making certain that all safeguards are in good repair was ordered, and the city asked the school district to take action in safeguarding a large, inadequately fenced sump near South High School.

Attention of the city fathers was drawn to the situation by Councilman Willys G. Blount, who cited the recent tragedies in Redondo Beach where two children died in a sump.

An important step in the program would be for the parents of the city's children to make certain that their child is not using the sump areas as a playground. Other safeguards, however, must be provided for those who fail.

Politics of Depression

American political habits being what they are, one wonders how the country ever can get out of a recession. The outs always blame the ins for the situation and, at times, give the impression of reveling in disaster. Our current predicament is a case in point.

To the man out of work a recession is a very real and terrible thing. He sees his savings depleted and the progress he made in prosperous years nullified. The business man sees ever declining revenue and, in struggling with his problem, can only come up with an answer that inevitably contributes to more unemployment. The man out of work and the business man faced with bankruptcy both stop spending. The result is the epitome of the vicious circle.

In the meantime the politicians are making hay, unfortunately for everybody in the country this is an election year when everything is fair in politics and war and the welfare of the country is lost in the shuffle for political advantage.

If there is any blame on government it must be shared equally by the Republicans and Democrats. It has been a long time since the present administration has had any control over congress and the president has been criticised recklessly for doing the very things his opponents have demanded that he do or doing the very things any conscientious leader should have done.

While insisting that the administration spend more for defense and price supports, politicians of both parties have asked for reduced taxes. It's as simple as that!

None will deny that this has been the most advertised recession in history. Almost from the day the last boom began political commentators and self-styled economic experts have been predicting a depression. The prophets of gloom are on holiday and it will take more prosperity than we have ever had before to make them unhappy.

No one seems to have the answer, but, if history can be trusted, it is quite probable that the basic laws of supply and demand will eventually prevail.

In the meantime most sensible people are buying wisely, practicing the kind of frugality that is the root of all fortune. Those who can afford it can be almost patriotic by buying now.

Opinions of Others

Any lingering doubt that the need for income tax rate reduction has reached the full-blown status of critical urgency was dispelled at the 24-day House Ways and Means Committee public hearings. A parade of witnesses—representative of all facets of the nation's economic life—offered strong evidence that the so-called business recession results large from oppressive personal and corporate tax rates and that reform of these rates is vital to recovery.

—Crown Point (Ind.) Lake County Star.

The nation's prosperity has been at such a high level for so long that a flat tire on the highway now is getting to be regarded as a major auto accident.—Abilene (Kans.) Daily Reflector-Chronicle.

An Old Timer is a fellow who remembers when a man did his own withholding on his take-home pay!

—West Branch (Iowa) Times.

Poor Timing For An Entrance



YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Landers

That Half a Loaf is Crumbs

Dear Ann: I am 29 years old, single, and struggling with the most important decision of my life.

Two years ago I met a very attractive man. We fell in love immediately. Now, when we're apart, I feel only half alive. I asked his intentions and he told me the terrible news. He's divorced, and paying such heavy alimony and support money that a second marriage is out of the question. This is the first time he ever mentioned his past.

I have an excellent job and offered to help him with his obligations. He said it would not be fair to mess up my life—that he's already broken one woman's heart. I told him I couldn't live without him and he said I didn't have to—that we could continue this way.

I'm not a kid anymore and I'm ready to be practical. Isn't half a loaf better than none? What do you think?—The Brownette.

Your boy friend's proposition is as inviting as a case of chicken-pox. When he says he doesn't want to "mess up YOUR life" what he means is, he doesn't want to mess up his own, by getting married again.

If you agree to rock along without benefit of clergy, you are a sap. This isn't half a loaf—it's crumbs.

Dear Ann: Eight years ago my husband and I and our infant son moved into the home of an elderly man who was a family friend. We were young, and hard-up for mon-

ey, and this man had a big house and was lonesome. "Uncle John" helped us out financially and never charged us rent or board. He said he was just happy to have our company. Now I'm beginning to wonder if we made a mistake. Our son is almost nine years old and we can't do a thing with him. He doesn't obey us and is sassy and smart alecky. He gets whatever he wants from "Uncle John" and he has no respect for us.

I've told my husband we should move. We've saved enough money to buy a small place of our own. It wouldn't be as nice as this, but we'd at least be alone. He says we'd be crazy to give all this up and that our son would be spoiled no matter where we lived. Please give us your opinion—Ella and Fred.

Move—and move fast. If your son is nine, the pattern is fairly well established, but he'll be a lot less spoiled with "Uncle John" out of the picture.

Your eight-year economy program was pretty expensive. You traded your independence for free room and board. The boy sensed you weren't boss in that house, and this weakened your position of authority. Move—yesterday.

Dear Ann: I live in an apartment. Two months ago a family with two teenage girls moved in above me.

They all get up at 7 a.m. The record player goes full

blast in one room and the radio in another. I think somebody plays the drums up there too, but I'm not sure. The racket lets up from 10 until 3 but it doesn't help much because I'm dizzy by then.

When the girls come from school the TV and radio go on, and it's cowboys and Indians or rock and roll until midnight. The other night I thought they were pounding nails in the floor but later I discovered they were dancing.

I hate to be a crab but I'm a nervous wreck. Shall I speak to them or shall I speak directly to the landlord? A friend of mine who had similar neighbors in an apartment building complained and is sorry she opened her mouth. Now the family has it in for her and they are noisier than ever.—S.L.

If you haven't welcomed the family to the building "officially," why not bake a cake and introduce yourself as the neighbor downstairs?

It would be much wiser to mention the noise casually a few days later. Explain that buildings aren't put together like they used to be, and the noise comes right through. Chances are they'll pipe down a lot faster than if you were to run upstairs with your hair on fire and threaten them with eviction.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. (C) 1958, Field Enterprises, Inc.

THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

Can a Turkey Become a Swan?

Notes from the "Aren't humans funny animals?" department:

When somebody sticks a camera or microphone before your puss, do you make like a monkey, an ostrich, or a clam?

As a sometime photographer, I've long been aware that people who strut like peacocks ordinarily may be thrown into a tizzy at the thought to having their features recorded for posterity. Some act like monkeys, waving their arms and making funny faces. Some pull out cobs and mirrors and start to preen their ruffled feathers. Others stick their heads in the sand, like ostriches, and refuse to be photographed.

When I borrowed a tape recorder from a friend, I discovered that putting a microphone in front of somebody's face often makes an ordinarily chattering magpie into a silent, frightened clam. Of course, there are the monkeys of the sound system, who have nothing really to say, but like to chatter to the sound of their own voices. You wouldn't think that a

little black box or a small cylinder with a wire attached could cause so much excitement among the human animal kingdom, but they do.

Somehow, the thought of recording their features or their voices for posterity frightens people.

There are few things more truthful than the camera, although everybody can be caught at awkward moments. But, let's face it, we do look like our pictures. Although I'd like to think that I'm a handsome brute, my pictures and my mirror tell me otherwise. Joe Doakes wants his picture to look like Clark Gable or Rock Hudson, not Joe Doakes.

Another great truth teller is the tape recorder. "That doesn't sound like me" is the usual comment of most recorders. Of course, our voices don't sound the same to us when they're resounding through the caverns of our heads as when they're heard out in the free air by others. We may wish that we sounded like William Jennings Bryan, but the result may be more like Mortimer Snerd.

We never see and hear ourselves as others see and hear us, and the results often aren't very flattering to our egos. We can shrug off the results if we don't like them and say, "Aw, that really isn't the way I look and sound."

Although nature dealt more kindly with some than others in handing out faces and voices, we can do the best with what we have. Plastic surgeons are out of the reach of most of us, but combs and soap and washing machines aren't. We can't all take voice training, but we can practice speaking distinctly and pleasantly.

We may not look like peacocks, but we don't have to look like a sheep dog in a windstorm either. If we look like the bald eagle or the turkey, we can behave like the swan with a little effort.

Our tones may not sound like those of the nightingale, but with a little practice we can make noises a little better than those of the donkey and we don't have to act squirrely.

Why monkey around?

Middle East Off Middle Road

ATLANTA, Ga.—Never at any period between 1931-1958 that we have been covering the Middle East have we encountered such major changes as are now taking place. These changes are unlike any others of our time. They are basic ethnological and psychological changes, more so than political or military. They even transcend the crisis between Arab and Jew, although it may be only a temporary shift to a more important break-through in a different direction... the unification of Arab nationalism under one guiding tribunal and one strong man.

If President Nasser survives his many enemies, he appears destined to reach this unification for the first time in modern history.

The radical change in the Middle East came on the day Nasser ordered the British flag lowered from the Suez Canal and dropped at his feet. He stepped on it while raising the Egyptian standard on the big pole at Suez. He was the first Egyptian in history to accomplish it.

This defiance of British rule raised the Nasser star to a height unprecedented in centuries of Middle East history. This act put the West on notice, that changes of ominous foreboding were in the way. And they came.

What clinched Nasser's leadership was the British-French-Israeli attack on the Suez Canal and Gaza... and subsequent withdrawal. This united the 45 million Arab-Moslems as never before in the past. We know now that the Soviet hand had reached over the Dardanelles to Cairo, with the hope that the return motion might land at Istanbul. For Communist entry into the Nasser dream in the Middle East had the same plans about conquest of the

Dardanelles as the Czarists before them. In this new unholy alliance between Russia and Egypt, Russia was aiming at Turkey's Dardanelles while Egypt looked longingly at Israel.

For the first time since the founding of the United Arab republic, President Nasser showed his hand. Speaking in Damascus recently, he proclaimed that "imperialist forces"—meaning Israel and the West—are trying to take over Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon and even parts of Syria. This is, of course, an absurdity. But it is not an absurdity in Syria or Egypt, or among millions of fanatical Arabs in the Middle East.

In this same speech Nasser again dramatized how the West created Israel and how the Arab world "has only one path to fight back against the imperialist-Zionist plot, and that path is non-alignment and positive neutrality between East and West."

This means that as of now we are expected to believe that UAR will not distinguish between Russia and the West. This is also an absurdity... but it is not an absurdity in the Middle East. Most Arabs, who hate Communism, believe it. They believe it because the Arab mentality is a hypnotic mentality... and Nasser has hypnotized the Arab-Moslem world, like Hitler hypnotized the German people.

When a nation is humiliated or degraded by external or internal forces, like defeat in war, age-old hunger and hopelessness, loss of pride, etc., it can be easily carried into a hypnotic mood, where only the commands of the hypnotist have any significant influence.

The Middle East is in this kind of a mood and has been before the creation of Israel.

It was this kind of mood that helped the establishment of Israel. For Britain could not have put over a Balfour declaration on Palestine before a strong and united Arab-Moslem civilization.

This is not to deprive the Zionist movement of credit for its efforts in establishing a home for thousands of innocent Hebrew victims of persecution... but to suggest that the indifference of the Arab-Moslem civilization played an important part in the present status of Palestine.

It was not entirely bad health that caused King Saud to decide so suddenly to pass over to his brother, Crown Prince Emir Feisal, about a million dollars a day in oil royalties, and the rule of Saudi Arabia's 5,000,000 people.

This dramatic shift means among other things that Saudi Arabia is Arab first and friends with outsiders second. It means that Saudi Arabia will lean toward Egypt instead of toward the West, as previously.

It probably means that Saudi Arabia will shift closer to Nasser as a warning to the Arabian-American Oil Co. that Prince Feisal is not as sympathetic to Aramco's virtual monopoly of the Peninsula oil resources as his brother King Saud was. He will probably bargain for increased royalties as a price for our major strategic base at Dhahran. He may shift his country and its resources closer to the United Arab republic for a united front against Israel.

Whatever happens from this change in Saudi Arabia, it appears like a serious setback for the West, which may engulf most of the area from Lebanon to Algiers for Nasser's modern Egyptian empire.

Insurance Facts

The California Unemployment Insurance Code sets forth the eligibility requirements for unemployment insurance. For example, there is the "voluntary quit," of which the Code states: "An individual is disqualified for unemployment compensation benefits if... he left his most recent work voluntarily without good cause..." (Section 1256).

The period of disqualification for voluntary quit is five weeks. The first week of the disqualification would be the week after quitting in which the claimant first registered for work with the department.

As to what is considered "good cause," the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board has stated: "In deciding the issue of good cause for voluntarily leaving work, the facts of each particular case must be weighed in the light of... principles of law. If the facts disclose a real, substantial, and compelling reason for leaving employment of such nature as would cause a reasonable person genuinely desirous of retaining employment to take similar action, then there is good cause for such leaving."

LAW IN ACTION

Tactics in Court

After the jurymen are sworn in and take their seats, the judge asks the lawyers to tell what they propose to prove during the trial.

These "opening statements" are important; a court may even direct a jury to bring in a certain verdict for the "defendant" if the plaintiff's proposed evidence—granting it all to be true—would not make a sound case. The opening statement must set out such a case before the plaintiff can go on.

Lacking this, the court may save the time of jurors, witnesses, and litigants by asking the jury to bring in a directed verdict.

Most often, though, a judge would detect these shortcomings in the "pleadings" before the trial, and stop the trial before it starts.

Further, under California's new pre-trial procedure, the judge and the lawyers on both sides meet before trial to try to agree on many facts about the case to save court time in proving them. In civil actions before trial the judge may order either side to produce facts which go into the record under our new "discovery" procedures. The procedures thus may reduce court time, and often spur litigants to settle their disputes out of court.

At times the court may keep witnesses out of the courtroom and "admonish" them not to compare notes outside, for instance—but it is rare for a judge to keep out other people, such as news reporters or the general public. So while most people think of court procedure as a time taker, our recent laws have all tended to save court time and expense.

Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

My Neighbors



"...and furthermore, I want a share of the profits and to examine the books every month!"

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RIVETS by George Sixta. Illustrations of a boy and a dog playing with a ball.